

Wanderers arrive 30 minutes late for defeat No. 11

Bromley 3, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers are still searching for their first Isthmian League victory since October 24—when Barking were defeated 3-1 at Loakes Park. Their visit to Bromley proved not only disastrous from the playing aspect but also in the way they arrived 30 minutes after the scheduled start.

On a bitterly cold afternoon, Wycombe's coach took a wrong turning on the outskirts of Bromley and play finally commenced at 3.35 p.m.

By half-time, no doubt, the players were probably wishing they had not arrived at all! Bromley had ripped open Wycombe's defence to take a commanding three-goal lead.

It might have been a different story had the Wanderers lacklustre attack taken advantage of the openings they created, especially in the second half.

Wycombe could well have taken the lead after only five minutes. A wonderful flick by Samuels put Horseman, playing his first club match since October 28, clean through the middle and only a desperate foul, just outside the box, by Gaston prevented Tony from scoring a certain goal.

WILY AGAR

With the experienced and wily Roy Agar prompting from behind, Bromley's forwards began to function as a unit. It was Agar who paved the way for the opening goal after 10 minutes.

Receiving the ball in his own half, Agar swept past Charlie Gale and split the defence with a great pass for Roberts to slip home.

Almost immediately Wycombe nearly equalised after an attractive build-up between Worley, Horseman and Merrick, but Samuels failed to connect with the cross right in front of goal.

The Bromley front-line tested Maskell at every opportunity and Green was particularly unlucky to see his fierce drive crash against the bar.

In a 4-2-4 formation Wanderers' defence always looked

suspect to the quick long ball down the middle which Bromley exploited to full advantage.

It was a pity Wycombe could not assert more pressure on the Bromley rearguard. 'Keeper Staples looked far from happy on occasions, especially when Samuels tried a 'banana' shot which he grabbed at the second attempt.

Agar set-up Bromley's second goal in the 32nd minute. He fired over a cross and right-back Bridge, who had started the move in mid-field, squeezed the ball past four defenders.

One minute before the break Bromley added a third. A fine reverse pass movement between Hockett and Roberts, gave Hockett the chance to stab the ball past the advancing Maskell.

BACK IN THE HUNT

Although Bromley visibly lost their grip on the game in the second period Wycombe, often territorially on top, never gave the impression of being able to pull this game out of the fire.

Even when Tony Horseman netted in the 65th minute. A through ball from Gale found Tony, looking suspiciously offside, and while the Bromley defenders waited for the whistle—which never came—Tony waltzed past the 'keeper before scoring.

Perhaps the best entertainment of the match came when a stray dog raced on to the field and eluded all attempts of capture for two minutes. After being caught, the dog, obviously pleased with his show, escaped to give an encore of his earlier performance.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; B. Vousden, J. Beck, I. Rundle, V. Faulkner; C. Gale, B. Baker; L. Worley, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

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AFTER LOSING their way en route to Bromley—the start was delayed 40 minutes—Wycombe ran into further trouble on the pitch as Bromley powered their way to a 3-0 interval lead.

Roberts netted after nine minutes, full-back Bridge made it 2-0, then a slip by Wycombe pivot Rundle let in Hockett for Bromley's third. Wycombe had more of the play in the second half and scored once through Horseman, but never looked like closing the gap.